



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - November 25, 2002

- ***In the West***, recent soil moisture improvements across the ***interior Northwest*** continue to benefit winter grains, although more rain or snow is needed. Meanwhile, beneficial precipitation is boosting high-elevation snow packs across the ***Four Corners region***.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather is starting to push winter wheat into dormancy across the ***northern half of the region*** and slowing wheat development elsewhere. Due to persistently cold autumn weather and limited soil moisture reserves, some winter wheat on the ***northern and central High Plains*** is poorly established, and a small portion of the crop has not emerged.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, the return of cool conditions across the ***Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes region*** is slowing winter wheat growth, while cold weather across the ***upper Midwest*** is increasing stress on livestock.
- ***In the South***, showers are returning to the ***Delta***, following more than a week of favorably dry weather that allowed cotton and soybean harvesting to approach completion. Meanwhile in the ***Southeast***, dry weather is promoting an acceleration of fieldwork.

Outlook: Bitterly cold air will spread over the ***Rockies and Plains*** as a strong high-pressure system settles over the region. Mostly dry weather is in store for much of the nation to start the week, although periods of snow are likely in central portions of the ***Rockies and High Plains***. By mid-week, a disturbance will move northeastward from the ***Gulf of Mexico***, producing rain and snow from the ***southern Plains and Delta into the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather will prevail in the ***Pacific Coast States*** into the holiday weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 30 - December 4 calls for below-normal precipitation across the ***Ohio Valley and Pacific Northwest***, but above-normal precipitation on the ***southern Plains***. Below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***eastern half of the nation*** and the ***Pacific Northwest***, while above-normal temperatures will be confined to the ***northern Plains***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)